

NEWSLETTER – FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY

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President's Letter

Ken Sosnowski, President

As I write this, the end of the world is only hours away, (at least if you're Mayan), but there is always the possibility that we may have to continue living. If 2013 does arrive, it may be a year of worry. The Governor's budget reflects the current fiscal realities and looks at the support for the public libraries as one area that can be reduced. When people discuss the "safety net" for society, they seldom include the public library, but they should. When you have to stretch that dollar, you don't buy a book or a DVD, if you can get it free from the library. Did you have to cancel your high-speed computer connection? There is one available at the library – for free! Many libraries are offering basic computer training, entertainment for children, gathering places for young teens and other opportunities for those in financial straits to stay active in their community. As supporters of the Salem Library, we realize that budgets may have to be reduced, but we ask that the public libraries never be viewed as an extravagance that can be pruned without a cost to the communities.

This year, we held another successful book sale and we would like to thank the chairman, Sara Ahalt and all the volunteers who worked to create the sale and all the patrons who came and purchased the books. The reputation we have managed to create over the years was illustrated by an article in the Roanoke Star, where the lady being interviewed, stated that she always hits the book sale first and then goes to the rest of Olde Salem Days. We will strive to be even better in 2013 because in view of the current financial situation (as described above), the income from this activity will be all the more important to the ability of the Salem Library to continue to offer the excellent service that we have come to expect.♦

Visit the Friends' web site at:

www.salemlibrary.info/Community/FriendsoftheLibrary.aspx

2013 Officers and Board Elected

By the Editor



L/R: Susan Ahalt, Ken Sosnowski Charlie Draper, and Joyce Foster

On Sunday, January 13, the members elected the officers who will serve the Friends of the Salem Library during 2013. Ken Sosnowski is again our President., Charlie Draper repeats as Vice President, Susan Ahalt returns as Secretary, and Joyce Foster returns as Treasurer. The following members were elected to the Board:

Chris Gladden
Sara Ahalt
Dr. Robert Paine, Jr.
Helen Robertson
Betty Waldron

Our Mission:

The Friends of the Salem Library organized in 1988 to pursue the following mission: *To maintain an association of persons interested in libraries; to focus public attention on the library, its resources and services; to rally public support to ensure adequate library funding at municipal and state levels; to receive and encourage gifts and bequests to the library; to support and cooperate with the library in developing library services and facilities for the community.* FOSL is chartered as a non-stock corporation under Virginia law and holds tax-exempt status for Federal taxation purposes under Section 501C3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

FOSL Book Sale, 2012

By Sara Abalt, Book Sale Chairman

The question most often asked during preparation for and holding the Book Sale was "Is Kindle having any impact on the Book Sale?" The answer is yes. Kindle and like devices offer convenience (and perhaps novelty) to readers who prefer a "light weight" reading experience, rather than lugging a book or books round. Most often the titles available on Kindle are current fiction by best-selling writers. Current fiction by well-known writers is the most profitable category in the sale. Donations in this category have been markedly down the last couple of years.



Volunteers begin sorting the donation "pile" in early August...

Uses for Kindle and others are limited, of course. I can't imagine trying to experience Richard Attenborough's "Amazing Rare Things" or "Through the Lens" from National Geographic or a cookbook with a full color photograph of a plate of pork barbecue on a reading device.

So those among you who are purists when it comes to the printed word, take heart. One day there will be a trend for "real" books. Just don't hold your breath.

The 2012 book sale netted \$5,859. Hard-working volunteers donated 754 hours to prepare and operate the sale. We thank the volunteers and the people of the community. Their work and support made the Book Sale a success. ♦

(See page 4 for the 2013 FOSL Book Sale Dates. *Ed.*)



Volunteers keep order in the books and help customers during the sale...



All this work makes our patrons happy...



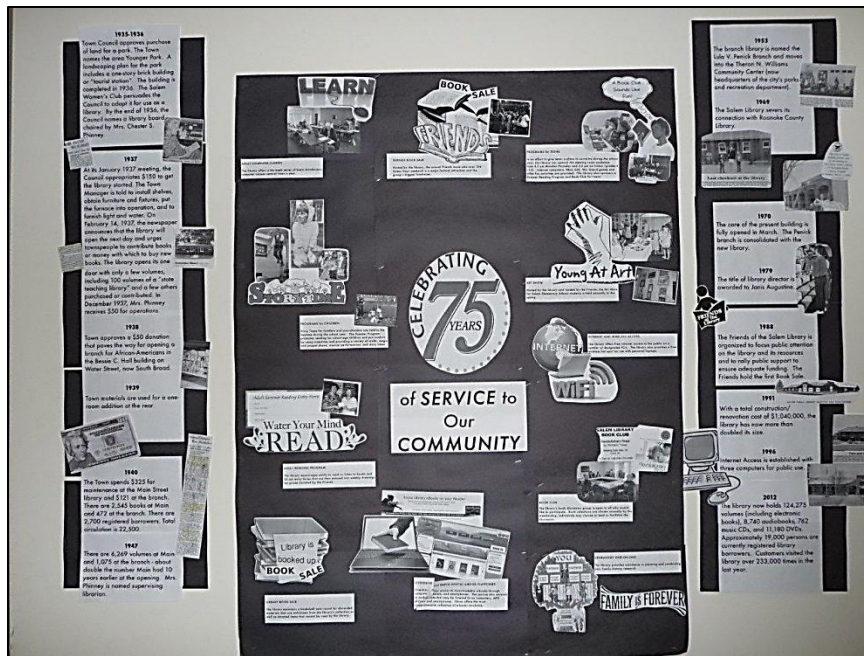
which makes FOSL's Treasurer happy!

We Lose a Friend

By The Editor

Robert Parson Paine, the son of Dr. Bob and Alice Paine, passed on January 8. He supported the FOSL Book Sale as a hard-working and cheerfull volunteer. Bob will be missed.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Bob and Alice Paine and to Emily Carter in their time of grief. ◇



Bulletin Board telling the story of the first 75 years of service by the Salem Library.

Margaret Heurtematte constructed this wonderful display detailing the Salem Library's first 75 years. As we start the 2nd 75 years in 2013, visit the library and take a journey through history. (Ed.)

Color Printer

By Joyce Foster, Treasurer

At the July 8, 2012 FOSL meeting, the members approved the funds to lease a printer system and buy required peripherals from LBM Office Solutions. This printer enables a library patron, using a library computer, to print their data without help from library staff. The system consists of a color printer, a bill acceptor, and a computer with keyboard and monitor. (See photograph.) The user pays \$0.10 for a black-and-white page and \$0.25 for color. The system relieves the library staff from providing printing chores and creates an income stream for FOSL.

The printer and peripheral equipment were installed in September, 2012. By the end of 2012, FOSL had received \$1,302.35 in income and paid \$716.45 in monthly lease fee expenses. FOSL made a net profit of \$585.90. The one-time expenses for peripheral equipment, \$2692, will be gradually paid off from the monthly profits. ◇



Officers of the Friends of the Salem Library:

President: Kenneth Sosnowski
Vice President: Charles Draper
Secretary: Susan Ahalt
Treasurer: Joyce Foster

Board of Directors:

Sara Ahalt Helen Robertson
Chris Gladden Betty Waldron
Dr. Robert Paine, Jr.

Committees:

Book Sale: Sara Ahalt
Newsletter Editor: Charlie Draper 387-9824

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Internet:

www.salemlibrary.info/Community/FriendsoftheLibrary.aspx

Membership dues (other than Life) are **payable January 1 of each year**. Consult your mailing label. If the date shown is *prior to 2013*, please renew your membership. You may pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk or by mail.

Important Dates

FOSL holds five regular meetings each year. They are on the 2nd Sunday* of the scheduled month. Meetings start at 2PM and last for approximately one hour.

- **March 10:** Regular meeting
(*Note: Daylight Savings begins this date.*)
- **May 19:** Children's Art Show and reception
(*2nd Sunday, May 12, is Mother's Day*)
- **July 14:** Regular meeting
- **August 1 through September 12:** Book Sale preparation in Library Meeting Room
- **September 13, 14, and 15: FOSL Book Sale** (*Sept 14 is Olde Salem Days*)
- **October 13:** Regular meeting

All members are encouraged to attend regular business meetings and to volunteer to help make special functions such as the Art Show and the Book Sale a success.◇

Membership dues (other than life) are on an annual basis and are payable January 1 of each year. Your dues help support the library.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Type: Please indicate type of membership below with an X.

_____ **Individual (\$10)** _____ **Family (\$15)** _____ **Sustaining (\$25)** _____ **Life (\$75)**

Please mail to: Friends of the Salem Library, c/o The Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St., Salem, VA 24153. Make checks payable to: *Friends of the Salem Library* or *FOSL*. You may also drop this form and your check at the Library Desk.